

LORENZO D. ELMER.

FEBRUARY 29, 1904.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. BURNHAM, from the Committee on Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany H. R. 6869.]

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 6869) granting an increase of pension to Lorenzo D. Elmer, have examined the same and report:

The report of the Committee on Invalid Pensions of the House of Representatives, hereto appended, is adopted and the passage of the bill is recommended.

The House report is as follows:

Lorenzo D. Elmer, now 72 years of age, served as a private in Company F, Sixth Vermont Infantry, from July 31, 1863, to September 4, 1865, when honorably discharged.

Medical records of the War Department show that he received a gunshot wound of the right foot at Cedar Creek on October 19, 1864.

The soldier is now pensioned under the act of June 27, 1890, at \$12 per month for total disability, due to gunshot wound of right foot, rheumatism, and disease of heart.

He was formerly pensioned under the general law at \$4 per month on account of the wound of foot.

A claim on account of rheumatism, filed in December, 1882, was rejected in August, 1898, upon the ground that the same was not incurred in the service of the United States, as shown by the soldier's affidavit filed in the Pension Bureau on August 1, 1898.

In this affidavit the soldier stated that soon after his discharge he commenced to be troubled with rheumatism, that he was unable to perform any manual labor and could only with great difficulty get about on crutches, and that he had every reason to know that his rheumatism was brought about by the exposure and hardships of army life, as he was well and strong before joining the Army.

He filed in that Bureau lay testimony that he had been a sufferer from rheumatism ever since his discharge to the present time, and medical testimony as to treatment for articular rheumatism since about 1877.

When last examined, on April 20, 1898, the board of surgeons described his condition as follows:

"Gunshot wound of foot: Cicatrix 1 by 3 inches deep, tender, with some loss of bone. Flexion and extension of foot about three-fourths normal. Some atrophy of muscles.

"Disease of heart: There is perceptible hypertrophy of the left ventricle, probably the result of rheumatism.

"Rheumatism: All muscles soft and flabby. There is complete ankylosis of the left hip joint and a slight angle of flexion with enlargement of trochanter.

"There is partial ankylosis of right hip joint; no rotation; flexion and extension of foot through an arc of 15 degrees; this condition probably the result of rheumatism. Claimant is unable to reach his foot in dressing and requires assistance in dressing and undressing, bathing, etc. Can walk with cane and crutch. Is so disabled from rheumatism and its results as to require the frequent and periodical attendance of another person, and is entitled to a rating of \$50."

A left inguinal hernia was also found by the examining surgeons.

The statement of Mr. Gillett, who introduced the bill, sets forth that the beneficiary is now wholly helpless and requires constant care and assistance by another person.

In the light of numerous precedents, it being shown that the beneficiary is helpless and requires the aid of a second person, an increase of his pension from \$12 to \$30 per month is justified.

The bill is therefore reported back with the recommendation that it pass.

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